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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 293\text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.003\text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.030  
 $wR$  factor = 0.072  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 32.3For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

## Bis(piperidinium) tetrachlorozincate

The title compound,  $(\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{N})_2[\text{ZnCl}_4]$ , contains a network of piperidinium cations and tetrahedral  $(\text{ZnCl}_4)^{2-}$  [ $d_{\text{av}}(\text{Zn}-\text{Cl}) = 2.2725(6)\text{ \AA}$ ] anions. The crystal packing is influenced by cation-to-anion  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  hydrogen bonds (three simple and one bifurcated), resulting in a structure with layered character.

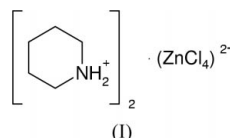
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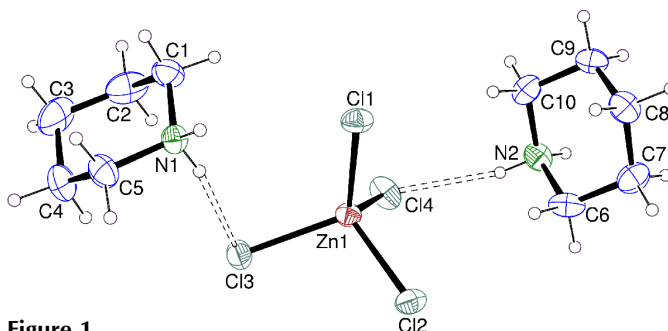
## Comment

The title compound, (I) (Fig. 1), complements recently reported salt-like associations between (protonated) amines and anionic metal-chloride polyhedra, such as  $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2)[\text{CuCl}_4]$  and  $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2)[\text{CuCl}_4]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Wei & Willett, 2002), and  $(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2)[\text{CoCl}_4]$  (Bremner & Harrison, 2003). The energetics of  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}-\text{M}$  ( $M = \text{metal}$ ) hydrogen bonds and their possible role as synthons in supramolecular chemistry have been described in detail by Brammer *et al.* (2002).



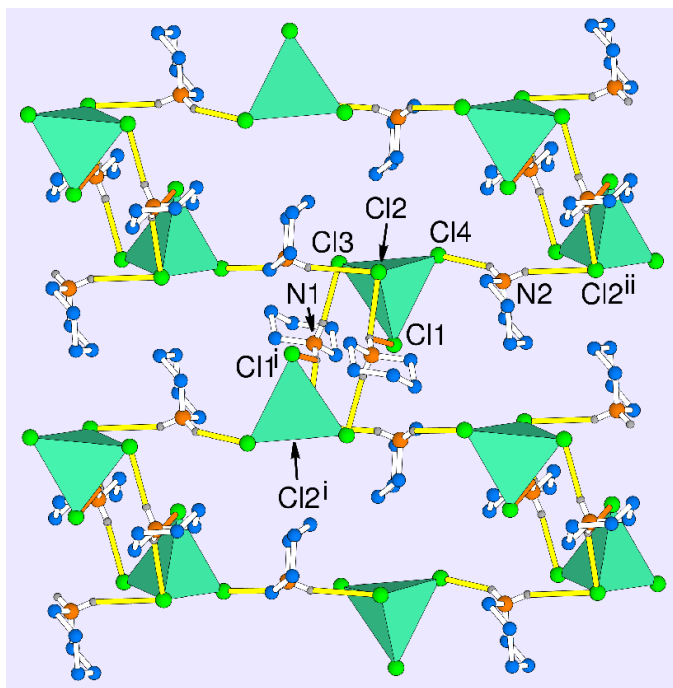
The structure of (I) contains two distinct  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{N}^+$  piperidinium cations and a tetrahedral  $[\text{ZnCl}_4]^{2-}$  anion. The organic species adopt typical chair conformations and their geometrical parameters [ $d_{\text{av}}(\text{C}-\text{N}) = 1.484(3)\text{ \AA}$  and  $d_{\text{av}}(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 1.504(3)\text{ \AA}$ ] are similar to those of the same cation in piperidinium chloride,  $(\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{N})\text{Cl}$  (Gaudet *et al.*, 1989). The  $[\text{ZnCl}_4]^{2-}$  group in (I) with  $d_{\text{av}}(\text{Zn}-\text{Cl}) = 2.2725(6)\text{ \AA}$  is typical (Viostat *et al.*, 1984).

As well as electrostatic attractions, the component species in (I) interact by means of a network of  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  links (Table 2). There are three simple  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  links

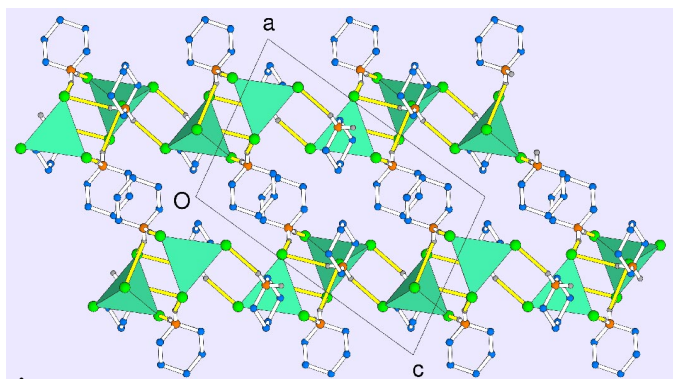


**Figure 1**

The asymmetric unit of (I) (50% displacement ellipsoids). H atoms are drawn as small spheres of arbitrary radius and hydrogen bonds are indicated by dashed lines.



**Figure 2**  
Detail of a hydrogen-bonded sheet in (I). Colour key:  $[\text{ZnCl}_4]^{2-}$  tetrahedra green, Cl atoms green, C atoms blue, N atoms orange and H atoms grey. The  $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  portions of the  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  hydrogen bonds with  $d < 2.7 \text{ \AA}$  and  $d > 2.7 \text{ \AA}$  are highlighted in yellow and orange, respectively. Symmetry labels as in Table 2 (atom  $\text{Cl}2^i$  is hidden behind a solid tetrahedron).



**Figure 3**  
[010] projection of (I). The colour key is as in Fig. 2, except that all  $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  bonds are highlighted in yellow.

$[d_{\text{av}}(\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}) = 2.45 \text{ \AA}$ ;  $d_{\text{av}}(\text{N}\cdots\text{Cl}) = 3.307(2) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $\theta_{\text{av}}(\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}) = 160^\circ]$  and one bifurcated  $\text{N}1-\text{H}2\cdots(\text{Cl}1^i, \text{Cl}2^i)$  bond (see Table 2 for symmetry code), with the two acceptor chloride ions forming a tetrahedral edge. One of the  $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  contacts is long ( $2.86 \text{ \AA}$ ) in this case and was flagged as being of questionable significance in a *PLATON* (Spek, 2003) analysis of the structure. However, the  $\text{Cl}1\cdots\text{Cl}2$  separation of  $3.5959(7) \text{ \AA}$  is significantly less than the average of the other  $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{Cl}$  distances [ $3.7306(8) \text{ \AA}$ ] and the donor-acceptor bond-angle sum about  $\text{H}2$  is  $351^\circ$ , suggesting that this bond is weak, but not merely a packing artifact. By comparison, the  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$  bonds [ $d_{\text{av}}(\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}) = 2.06(1) \text{ \AA}$ ] to the 'bare' chloride ion in  $(\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{N})\text{Cl}$  (Gaudet *et al.*, 1989) are much stronger than any of the hydrogen bonds seen in (I), which is

consistent with results of the database survey of Aullón *et al.* (1998) into hydrogen bonds to chloride or metal-bound chloride acceptors. The  $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}-\text{Zn}$  bond angles (Table 1; average angle =  $93^\circ$ ) are typically acute, which can be related to a simple bonding model (Aullón *et al.*, 1998) in which the chloride  $p$ -type lone pairs are more basic than the  $sp$ -type lone pair.

The organic and inorganic species interact so as to generate a  $(10\bar{1})$  hydrogen-bonded sheet (Fig. 2). This may be decomposed into pairs of  $[\text{ZnCl}_4]^{2-}$  tetrahedra which are linked by pairs of N1-containing piperidinium cations, the whole assemblage being generated by inversion symmetry [ $d(\text{Zn}\cdots\text{Zn}^i) = 6.0840(4) \text{ \AA}$ ]. These pseudo-clusters are crosslinked by the N2-containing piperidinium cations, resulting in layers extended throughout the crystal structure [ $d(\text{Zn}\cdots\text{Zn}^{ii}) = 8.1865(5) \text{ \AA}$ ]. Finally, the interleaved neutral  $(10\bar{1})$  sheets interact by way of van der Waals forces (Fig. 3), resulting in a layered structure.

## Experimental

The following aqueous solutions were mixed at 293 K in a Petri dish: 4 ml of 1 M piperidine, 2 ml of 1 M zinc chloride, and 4 ml of 1 M HCl. This resulted in a clear solution and colourless block-like crystals of (I) grew as the water evaporated at 293 K over the course of a few days.

### Crystal data

$(\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{N})_2[\text{ZnCl}_4]$   
 $M_r = 379.48$   
Monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$   
 $a = 9.6583(4) \text{ \AA}$   
 $b = 12.0849(5) \text{ \AA}$   
 $c = 14.9557(7) \text{ \AA}$   
 $\beta = 101.470(1)^\circ$   
 $V = 1710.76(13) \text{ \AA}^3$   
 $Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.473 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$   
Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
Cell parameters from 5271 reflections  
 $\theta = 2.3-30.0^\circ$   
 $\mu = 2.04 \text{ mm}^{-1}$   
 $T = 293(2) \text{ K}$   
Block, colourless  
 $0.36 \times 0.28 \times 0.16 \text{ mm}$

### Data collection

Bruker SMART1000 CCD diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 1999)  
 $T_{\text{min}} = 0.516$ ,  $T_{\text{max}} = 0.721$   
13983 measured reflections

4972 independent reflections  
3588 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.021$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 30.0^\circ$   
 $h = -13 \rightarrow 13$   
 $k = -15 \rightarrow 17$   
 $l = -21 \rightarrow 16$

### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.030$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.072$   
 $S = 0.97$   
4972 reflections  
154 parameters

H-atom parameters constrained  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0376P)^2]$   
where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.64 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.45 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ).

Zn1—Cl4	2.2508(5)	Zn1—Cl3	2.2812(6)
Zn1—Cl1	2.2722(5)	Zn1—Cl2	2.2858(5)
Zn1—Cl1 $\cdots$ H2 <sup>i</sup>	81	Zn1—Cl3 $\cdots$ H1	90
Zn1—Cl2 $\cdots$ H2 <sup>ii</sup>	90	Zn1—Cl4 $\cdots$ H14	111
Zn1—Cl2 $\cdots$ H13 <sup>ii</sup>	91		

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x, 1-y, 1-z$ ; (ii)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} - y, z - \frac{1}{2}$ .

**Table 2**  
Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$D-H \cdots A$	$D-H$	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D-H \cdots A$
N1—H1 $\cdots$ Cl3	0.90	2.33	3.2146 (16)	169
N1—H2 $\cdots$ Cl2 <sup>i</sup>	0.90	2.50	3.2459 (15)	141
N1—H2 $\cdots$ CH <sup>i</sup>	0.90	2.86	3.4764 (14)	127
N2—H13 $\cdots$ Cl2 <sup>iii</sup>	0.90	2.64	3.4912 (19)	158
N2—H14 $\cdots$ Cl4	0.90	2.39	3.215 (2)	153

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x, 1-y, 1-z$ ; (iii)  $\frac{1}{2}+x, \frac{1}{2}-y, \frac{1}{2}+z$ .

All H atoms were placed in idealized positions [ $d(C-H) = 0.97 \text{ \AA}$  and  $d(N-H) = 0.90 \text{ \AA}$ ] and refined as riding, with  $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{parent atom})$ .

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1999); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 1999); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97*; molecular graphics: *ORTEP-3* (Farrugia,

1997) and *ATOMS* (Shape Software, 1999); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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